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sources, hitherto unknown, for certain sections of eastern Africa and Asia. All these sources with a number of others enter into his work.

As for the *Carta Marina*, the editors can hardly be accused of overstatement in referring to it as "a printed edition of the Canario chart, not indeed a slavish reprint; but an improved and . . . enlarged edition". In nomenclature, in legends, in coast contours the resemblance is striking. A large number of his sources for this map are expressly enumerated in a legend which is conspicuously given. That the Portuguese cartography of the new discoveries should have exerted so remarkable an influence on the geographers of central Europe, particularly the German, is an interesting fact. It is not to be explained by merely attributing a more liberal spirit to the Portuguese than to the Spanish governments respecting the spread of information concerning the new lands discovered. There is suggested, by the fact of that great influence, a lively intercourse, commercial and otherwise, between Germany and Portugal in those years, and the nature of that intercourse is a subject worthy of more careful study.

One can no longer doubt with Nordenskiöld the marked ability and influence of Waldseemüller. Clearly his maps of 1507 and 1516 are his best work, yet his map of Europe bearing the date 1511, but recently found, and his contributions to the Strasburg edition of Ptolemy entitle him to a place of first rank. We now know very much of the extent of his influence on his contemporaries and his successors of the century, and the list of those who copied him more or less slavishly is a long one. In the amount of positive information that these maps give concerning the status of geographical knowledge in the early years of the sixteenth century may be found no small part of their historical value. An astonishingly large part of the literature of early American cartography needs careful revision since the issue of this volume of facsimiles.

E. L. STEVENSON.

The Opening of the Mississippi: a Struggle for Supremacy in the American Interior. By FREDERICK AUSTIN OGG, Instructor in History in Indiana University. (New York: The Macmillan Company; London: Macmillan and Co. 1904. Pp. xi, 670.)

THIS book is itself a monograph showing the efforts of four nations through three centuries to discover and settle, develop, and control the Mississippi valley. The narrative begins with the first visits of the Spaniards to the northern shores of the Gulf of Mexico and concludes with the admission of the state of Louisiana into the Union with boundaries that embraced a portion of that vague province, "West Florida". The place of the book in a classified bibliography is between the general works such as Wilson's or McMaster's (for the period which McMaster and Ogg have in common) on the one hand, and, on the other, the monographs of Parkman, Thwaites, and Winsor on the French discoverers, Gayarré's *History of Louisiana*, Hosmer's *History of the Louisiana Purchase*, or

Adams's *History of the United States*. It is fuller and more connected than the first class, uninterrupted by excursions into other fields. It is less detailed and exhaustive than the other class. How could it be otherwise within the limits of six hundred and fifty-odd pages of text?

The style is that of the simple, straightforward narrative. It flows almost as smoothly over matters involving disputed fact and interpretation as over the well-accepted views. The author states the best approved opinion, generally relegating controversy to the foot-notes, where the opposing views are briefly stated with references.

The author makes no pretension to having had access to new and unused material or to having discovered a new and improved interpretation of the old material. Foot-notes refer by author and page to the source materials and the secondary authorities with equal copiousness. The reason for the book's existence is that the subject, as conceived by the author, is sufficiently definite and important and interesting to demand treatment as a whole, yet has not hitherto been treated as a whole though many writers have treated one or more phases of it. Here the results of their efforts are put together and unified, the gaps filled up, and the discrepancies harmonized according to the author's best light and judgment. It might be described as a history compiled from the extensive mass of monographs, studies, and papers bearing on the subject, carefully revised and compared with the original sources.

Take the treatment of La Salle as an instance. Chapter iv, "La Salle and the Opening of the Great West", fifty-three pages, is preceded by a chapter of thirty-six pages on "The Search of the French for the Mississippi", and it is followed by a chapter of equal length on "The Exploration of the Upper Mississippi". This is the position and the proportion of space allotted to the famous explorer. Compare with this the mass of "source material" cited in foot-notes and here sufficiently indicated by the names of French, Thwaites, Margry, Shea, not to add more; and the secondary material of Parkman, Winsor, Monette, and many lesser contributors. The reader who came to the book to find an exhaustive and critical study of La Salle would be disappointed. What the author intended, and what we find, is not a study of his career under the microscope — in minute detail, but rather with the field-glass, in distant perspective. So with any other chapter. "The Louisiana Purchase" is the eleventh of the fourteen chapters and occupies forty-four pages. Yet there are on almost every page exact references to twenty-two different authorities in the aggregate, such as the *American State Papers*, *The Writings of Jefferson*, *The Annals of Congress*, or Adams's *History of the United States* (which devotes eleven chapters to this subject), and Hosmer's *History of the Louisiana Purchase*.

Finally, it is a book to inform and entertain the reader and to stimulate in him an interest in the sources and more elaborate studies. What it purports to do it does, not faultlessly, but commendably; and no reader who considers both the scope of the title and the size of the book need be disappointed in its contents.

FREDERICK W. MOORE.